

Ashland English 100 Essay #2

A Turning Point in My Life

Your Writing Task

Write a narrative of a turning point in your personal life, focusing on one particular event that changed you.

- Aim at being concrete and specific. By the time we are finished reading, we should have a very definite sense that we have been through this with you.
- Ask yourself how you were changed by this event. If you caught the winning touchdown pass that got your team the state championship, so what? How did it change you?

Skills you should learn in this assignment:

Human beings are natural story-tellers, and if I simply tell a class to “write something about X,” 99% will write some sort of story. Those stories, however, are often rambling, confusing, and dull. The skills I want you to work on for this assignment are vividness and focus—making the event come alive with particular details and leaving out the details that are only distracting.

Mechanical Details

Length: Minimum 600 words not counting title, your name, etc. That’s about a two-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 900. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade.

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1” margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper:

- The English Department wants electronic copies of all your essays this semester, so please upload the final product to the drop box in Blackboard. Some students (especially those who use Google Docs) have trouble figuring out how to do this, so ask if you are uncertain how to proceed!
- If you have any trouble getting the Blackboard upload to work, simply print a copy and bring it to class.

Due Date

- **Final copy:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018

This essay is worth 50 points.